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AGRICULTURAL NOTES

SEP 14 1929

PUBLISHED BY

PORTO RICO AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION, MAYAGUEZ
OFFICE OF FARM MANAGEMENT, FEDERAL BUILDING, SAN JUAN

No. 47.

San Juan, Porto Rico, February, 1929.

P. O. J. 2878 IN PORTO RICO.

By R. L. Davis.

P. O. J. 2878 was imported direct from Java in March, 1927, by the Porto Rico Experiment Station at Mayaguez. Only three eyes germinated from the ten cuttings received. It was, however, extended quite rapidly by the Java water-sucker and Mayaguez single-eye methods until there was in October, 1928, approximately 15 acres entirely planted to P. O. J. 2878 from this small beginning. The stools from the three original eyes imported were allowed to ratoon. As twelve-months-old first ratoons they made an impressive showing. They were handsome in size, standing well over 8 feet in height and averaging between $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter. The joints were extraordinarily long as judged by other commercial varieties of cane; between 6 and 7 inches is a conservative estimate.

The stooling power of this variety leaves little to be desired; the shoots are very large and vigorous as they emerge and are quite numerous, as many as 25 to 30 having been counted as an average for the ratoons of fifty stools. The hybrid's wild blood shows up decidedly in this characteristic: it stools just as well if not better than P. O. J. 2725.

Two "primavera" plantings of P. O. J. 2878 were made next to P. O. J. 2725 in February and March, 1928. P. O. J. 2878 averaged, at maturity, fully two feet taller than P. O. J. 2725 in both plantings. The latter variety lived up to its reputation as an early arrower and was in full bloom on November 20, while P. O. J. 2878 showed no signs of arrowing on January 22. From 13-months-old "gran cultura" of P. O. J. 2878 only two canes out of 50 showed signs of arrowing on December 15. These notes tend to confirm the reports from Java that P. O. J. 2878 arrows late and sparingly.

Part of the above "primavera" plantings were cut for seed in October. The young ratoons formed by the P. O. J. 2878 are to date decidedly superior to those of P. O. J. 2725 both in height and number of shoots.

P. O. J. 2878 is practically immune to mosaic and inherits resistance to other diseases, from its wild ancestor. P. O. J. 2878 grows erect, sheds its leaves freely, germinates well, and all signs fail if it does not give a good account of itself in Porto Rico. There is no reason why P. O. J. 2878 should not be extended and tried out here on a generous scale. Only one drawback has thus far been found at Mayaguez: P. O. J. 2878 is quite susceptible to the attack of borers.

Hand-mill analyses were made at Mayaguez January 17 on 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -months-old "primavera." The results were as follows:

	Sucrose	Purity
P. O. J. 2725	14.75%	85.0%
P. O. J. 2878	14.27%	83.7%
Mayaguez 63	15.46%	83.7%

Rains continued to within 4 days of the time the samples were collected. These preliminary tests indicate that P. O. J. 2878 gives a juice at least equal to that of P. O. J. 2725. Additional tests are needed to confirm this under Porto Rican conditions.

